

BCM

A Belgian Japanese- and pop culture Magazine
Nr 35: April - May - June 2018
ISSN: 2593-0435

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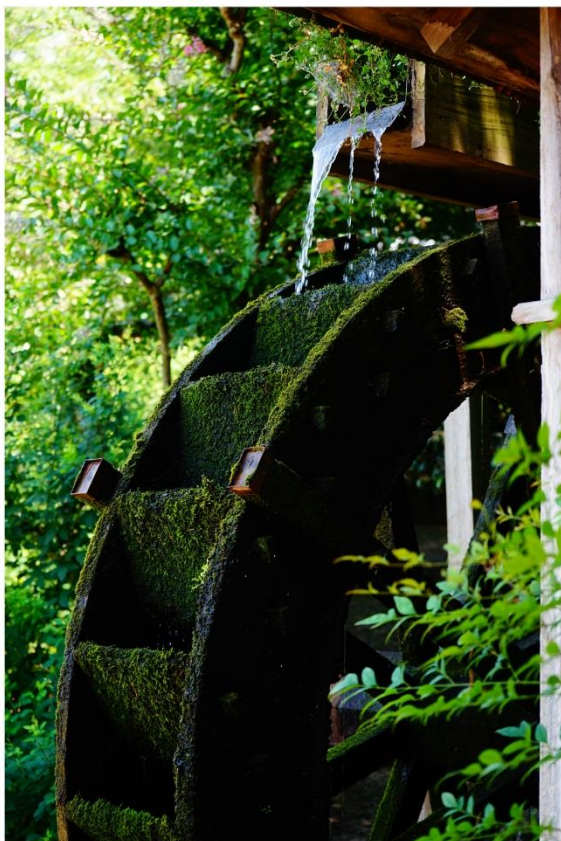
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Helcanen in Japan travel feature:

All photography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be and helcanen.blogspot.com)

Special thanks to: everyone who contributed and especially our readers!

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we can and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them. It is also worth noting that this is a volunteer run publication.

INTRODUCTION

Finally, it is Spring. Or something that passes for it, with all the April showers and such. Spring means Spring fashion, although with the early Spring we've been having in Europe, our fashion feature does still look a little wintery. At least it's accurate right?

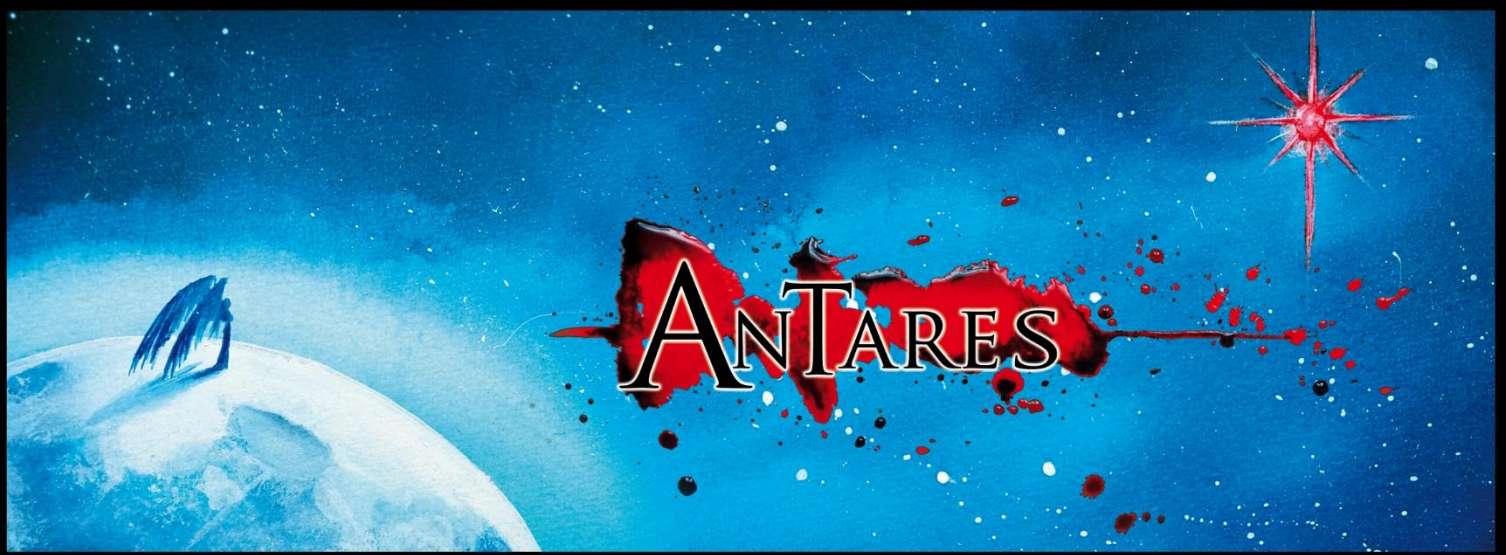
Spring also means the return of the convention season, and you can see the evidence of that in our events section. Conventions also mean the opportunity for live interviews. We sat together with Mikaru who was touring Europe solo, without his band G.L.A.M.S this time. As well as newcomers to the EU scene when it comes to touring: She, in the Haze. And we asked several celebrities from the big screen and popular tv shows some questions at Comic Con Brussels.

Of course there are our regular fares: our beauty tutorial by the amazing Claire dans la Lune, as well as our continued travel feature and stories by the talented Helcanen.

And much, much more. We've got art, photography, and a bunch of other things to enjoy!

See you all in summer!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in chief



Spring ombre

Time for some colour!

Winter has cleared the way for spring, which means it's time to get a bit more colourful again. I created a look with my two favourite spring colours, yellow and mauve. It's perfect for an event or just for the weekend. Don't worry it's easy to do and I've broken it down into some easy steps to follow. Use any products that you're comfortable with, take your time and most of all, have fun.

By Claire Van Laere
www.instagram.com/clairredanslalune16



Step 1: As always, I apply primer and foundation and I prime my eyes. I have also filled in my eyebrows in advance, which can sometimes makes it easier to avoid making them too dark or filling them in too harshly.

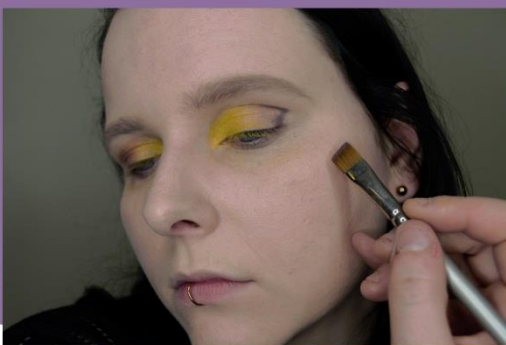
Step 2: In my inner eye corners I apply a bright yellow eyeshadow and I bring it just a tiny bit under my eye. Then I start patting the eyeshadow on my lid until I've covered about one third of my lid. Pat it on, don't rub, this way you get more product on your lid, which we will need for blending later.

Step 3: On the other end of my lid I apply a more subdued mauve in an arrow shape, Then I blend inward. Don't worry if you lose the shape while blending, you can fix that with some concealer. Blend it inward until you reach the yellow.

Step 4: I'm taking a third colour, a rosier mauve. I use this as a transition colour between the mauve and the yellow. Pat it on in the middle of the lid and blend it in with a short blending brush and keep blending until you don't have any hard lines left.

Step 5: I apply a line of eyeliner and I keep it thin, so it doesn't cover up the eyelid. After all this hard work you still want to be able to see your eyelids, don't you? Finish it with some mascara on your upper and lower lashes. You can also apply some soft eye pencil under your eyes if you deem it necessary.

Step 6: For my grand finale I apply a yellow toned highlighter and a mauve blush. Powder everything down and apply a fixing spray to seal it all down. Now you're ready to face a beautiful spring day!



Products used for this look: M.A.C, fix+ in Rose. M.A.C, in extreme dimension mascara. Morphe, 35P palette. NYX, hot singles shadows in STFU NYX, liquid suede in Stone Fox. Yves Rocher, fixing eyelid primer. Yves Rocher, liquid eyeliner in Black.



VISIT LISBON!

We at BCM often receive questions of where in Belgium and Europe is good to visit.
We aren't travel agents, but we can make recommendations!
So in this Visit! feature we will focus on a European city, per edition.

This time: **Lisbon**, in Portugal - www.visitlisboa.com

Reasons to visit Lisbon: full of history, beautiful architecture, culture. Plenty of things to see and do!

Photography by Nick Ottens.





Event: Disney in Concert - Dutch edition
What: Disney music live
When: December 26 (French) & 27 (Dutch) 2017
Where: Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: www.mbpresents.be

Disney in Concert was a two day philharmonic concert event, taking place just after the holidays to keep the magic of Christmas just going a that little bit longer. The first show on December 26th focussed on French versions of the songs, whilst the second show on December 27th focussed on Dutch versions. For people that are bilingual, this is a real treat, as both days featured different vocalists. I only attended the second day showing, so I this review focusses on that, and that alone.

It's a grand performance for sure, with 80+ musicians on stage at any given time. So it's unsurprising the event took place in one of the concert halls of *Brussels Expo*. The instrumental parts were performed by the *European Philharmonia*, led by conductor *Walter Proost*. Vocalists for this performance were singer *Gene Thomas*, actor and singer *Giovanni Kemper* and two Flemish Disney stars: *Deborah De Ridder* and *Elke Buylen*. Who all did a splendid job on their vocal parts. The concert had a good mix between instrumental only songs and those with vocal parts. Whenever a song would be performed, the background screen would display scenes from it's source, including some rare footage and original storyboards. There were classic songs from lesser known movies, and absolute crowd pleasers that everyone could sing along too.

What was awesome was that they threw in the occasional original English language version of a song. I loved that touch, because I'm not familiar with most Disney songs in Dutch at all, and judging from the amount of people my age and younger in the crowd, without children, I wasn't the only one.

That brings me to my next point, you may feel like this is a family only affair, or an afternoon for kids. Nothing is more untrue. Whilst yes, there were quite a few families with children, the vast majority were adult Disney fans that showed up with friends or as a couple without kids. So if that's something that held you back this time, don't let it hold you back the next edition if you love the music of Disney!



The orchestra was phenomenal, the vocalists did a great job, and everyone on stage clearly enjoyed themselves just as much as people in the crowd. One encore became two and ended up in three, even if it meant having to repeat a few songs, which absolutely no one seemed to mind. Testament were the amount of lighters and mobile phones being held up and the roaring standing ovation.

Like I said before, if you enjoy the music of Disney, this is an event well worth attending. Because it makes for an excellent, music filled afternoon. Although I personally think it would be kinda cool if next time they do four dates and add a German (for our poor German Belgians that always get forgotten!) and English date to the list.

I have done my best to reassemble the set-list, but it may be not 100% correct/complete. At the very least it should give you a really good idea of the songs they played and the movies they originated from. All titles are in English, even when they were Flemish versions, as BCM is an English language magazine.

1. instrumental medley: Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah (Song of the South), You can Fly (Peter Pan), Chim Chim Cher-ee- (Mary Poppins), Step in Time (Mary Poppins), Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (Mary Poppins), I'm Late (Alice in Wonderland), Mad Tea Party (Alice in Wonderland), Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo (Cinderella), Cinderella (Cinderella), Mickey Mouse March (The Mickey Mouse Club), It's a Small World After All (It's a Small World), Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah.
2. Part of Your World (The Little Mermaid - Deborah De Ridder)
3. Happy Ending (The Little Mermaid - instrumental)
4. Under the Sea (The Little Mermaid - Gene Thomas)
5. Poor Unfortunate Souls (instrumental)
6. Colors of the Wind (Pocahontas - Elke Buylen)
7. Prologue (Beauty and the Beast - instrumental)
8. Belle (Beauty and the Beast - Deborah De Ridder)
9. West Wing (Beauty and the Beast - instrumental)
10. Be Our Guest (Beauty and the Beast - Giovanni Kemper)
11. Tale as Old as Time (Beauty and the Beast - Elke Buylen & Gene Thomas)
12. I Wanna be like You (Jungle Book - Giovanni Kemper, English version)
13. Chim Chim Cher-ee- (Mary Poppins - all vocalists)
14. Jolly Holiday (Mary Poppins - all vocalists)
15. Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (Mary Poppins - all vocalists)
16. Step in Time (Mary Poppins - all vocalists)
17. The Bells of Notre Dame (The Hunchback of the Notre Dame - instrumental)
18. Into the Sunlight (The Hunchback of the Notre Dame - instrumental)
19. The Bells of Notre Dame (The Hunchback of the Notre Dame - instrumental)
20. Let it Go (Frozen - Elke Buylen)
21. Arabian Nights (Aladdin - instrumental)
22. Friend Like Me (Aladdin - Giovanni Kemper)
23. A Whole New World (Aladdin - Deborah De Ridder & Gene Thomas)
24. Pirates of the Caribbean movie soundtrack medley (instrumental)
25. Circle of Life (The Lion King - Gene Thomas, Dutch version)
26. I Just Can't Wait To Be King (The Lion King - Elke Buylen & Giovanni Kemper)
27. Can You Feel The Love Tonight (The Lion King - Giovanni Kemper)
28. Under The Stars (The Lion King - instrumental)
29. Circle of Life (English version)
30. It's a Small World After All (all vocalists, English version)
- ENCORE
31. Prologue (Beauty and the Beast - instrumental)
32. Belle (Beauty and the Beast - Deborah De Ridder)
33. West Wing (Beauty and the Beast - instrumental)
34. Be Our Guest (Beauty and the Beast - Giovanni Kemper)
35. Tale as Old as Time (Beauty and the Beast - Elke Buylen & Gene Thomas)
36. Let it Go (Frozen - Elke Buylen)



Event: Comic Con Brussels
What: Pop culture convention
When: February 10 & 11 2018
Where: Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: comicconbrussels.com

I've had the pleasure of attending several events organised by this organisation during the past few years. One of their biggest strengths is how they learn from past editions, and really think about what makes or breaks events like these down to the smallest details. This has resulted in *Comic Con Brussels 2018* being one of the most well organised conventions I've been to yet. Keep in mind that BCM was present on Saturday only, and therefore cannot judge Sunday's events.

Tour & Taxis is a large venue, but getting lost was unlikely. This was thanks to the magazine-like programme (which included fun details such as free paper craft templates) and the enormous maps that were available all over the convention halls. The halls were separated by theme, and everything was well spaced out.

There was a lot to do at Comic Con! While not all geeks may have been pleased with the convention's content (manga fans and retro gamers might have been a bit disappointed, for example), the wide range of things to see, do, and shop for, made sure both initiates and veterans of pop culture could find something to enjoy themselves with.

The first hall had impressive live-size sets and props of popular titles such as *Star Wars* and *The Walking Dead*. It also sported a *NYX Cosmetics* stand where you could have your make-up done, which is a creative addition to an event where dressing up is an integral part of the experience. Moving on to the next hall, famous actors such as *Nichelle Nichols*, *Anthony Daniels*, and *John Rhys-Davies* were eager to meet their fans. Finding like-minded people was easy thanks to the many fan club booths. Shopping was a pleasure, too. Both dealer rooms were well spread-out, and had a wide variety of wares. I didn't spot a lot of obvious bootleg goods, or too many of the overpriced *TaoBao/Alibaba* resellers that often riddle convention floors, which is always a plus.

If all of that wasn't your cup of tea, you could join a wizard wand waving class, learn how to fly a drone, or join a panel on how to manage cosplaying on a budget.

Tired after having too much fun? Not a problem: a relaxation zone sporting cosy bean bags had been set up to put up your weary feet for a moment. Thanks to *CosplayCloud*, cosplayers could also attend an area named *Cosplay City* to take a break from their roles and have their costumes repaired.

The organisation allowed visitors to bring their own food. Something which you'd think would be common practice given the often very high prices of convention food, not to mention potential food allergy issues. And had set up a *NomNomNom* hall with fairly reasonably priced food and drink vendors and tables to eat at. There were also food trucks set up at the entrance of the building. On top of that, they did cater to both vegans and vegetarians.

A flaw that a lot of conventions in Brussels have to deal with, is language problems. Some refuse to cater to non-francophone visitors, others are too stubborn to allow anything but English into their halls. Comic Con Brussels used English as their main way of communicating, and made sure there was plenty to do, no matter what your native language was. Staff members were also flexible when it came to different languages, and knew exactly who to send you to if you needed help in your native tongue.

The attention to detail at this event was astounding. Clearly, a lot of thought has gone into organising this edition of Comic Con Brussels. I'm glad to see these types of conventions grow, and I can't wait to see how they will keep improving themselves.

Review by Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



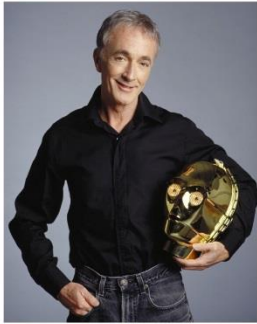
Photographic impressions of COMIC CON BRUSSELS

February 10 & 11 2018, Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert



Comic Con Brussels had some absolutely amazing names on their guest schedule this year. We were lucky enough to speak to four of them very briefly to ask some quick quote questions (without the use of a quick quotes quill of course!). So here it is, our very first edition of Quick Quote Questions with Anthony Daniels, John Rhys-Davies, Dean Cain and Nichelle Nichols.



Anthony Daniels
Best known for his role of C3PO in Star Wars

R2D2 is quite infamous for getting Treepio in all sorts of trouble. But what has been the nicest thing he's ever done for C3PO?
Absolutely. The nicest thing is that he has been Treepio's friend for many, many years. And like all friends, they tease each other. They have moments where

they don't get on. But then they get on even better the next time.

C3PO is an iconic part of not just the Star Wars universe, but sci-fi and robotics full stop. What makes you most proud of him being such a phenomenon?

Because one of the earliest examples of human cyborg interaction.

And he has survived so much that he must have been made very well made from the beginning. He has become a little more quirky since the beginning. Like an old automobile he gets idiosyncrasies that you get used to. But he particularly likes the fact that humans relate to him, even though they don't always listen to what he says.

Find Anthony Daniels online:

Twitter: twitter.com/ADaniels3PO

Website: www.anthonydaniels.com

IMDB: www.imdb.com/name/nm0000355



John Rhys-Davies
Best known for his roles in The Lord of the Rings, Sliders & Indiana Jones

You have played such diverse characters in many different genres. What kind of character in what genre would you still love to portray?

I love work. I love getting up at 5 o' clock in the morning and walking on a set at 8 o' clock and playing basically. So I'll do anything. I just like solving the daily problems. Genre wise I'm fond of science-fiction. But history and literature are my first passions.

What's was your favourite fan interaction so far?

You know, if you've got the time and if you can get people to talk to you they will tell you the most amazing stories. And you learn more about life and about the heartbeat of a nation and about the fears and hopes of ordinary people. I have learned to become a better person through the schooling of my fans. I love them *smiles warmly*. The audience is somehow, in our silly little ways of actors. When we are young, we can forget the importance of the most important people, which are the audience. There is something that *Dr Johnson* said: "the drama's laws, the drama's patron's give and we who live to please must please

to live." It's a good quote because it's basically central to the business of entertainment. The audience is who I work for. And if I lose sight of that and imagine that I am far more important than I am doomed, and rightfully so.

What would Ghimli say if he ended up at an event like this convention?

In his Ghimli voice There are some very hot Dwarvish women here and I like Belgian ale *laughs*!

Find John Rhys-Davies online:

IMDB: www.imdb.com/name/nm0722636



Nichelle Nichols
Best known for her role as Uhura in Classic Star Trek

Fans tend to gift you tribbles. How many have you received at this convention so far? And how many do you have in total?

I have received some today, but I haven't had time to count how many because I've been so busy meeting people and signing

autographs. To be honest, at this point, I have so many of them in total from over the years, that I have stopped counting after the first time I lost count years ago *smiles*.

What do you enjoy the most about being a guest here?

Definitely meeting all my fans. Do you see that enormous line? So nice that so many people are coming to see me *smiles*!

Find Nichelle Nichols online:

Twitter: twitter.com/nichelleisuhura

IMDB: www.imdb.com/name/nm0629667



Dean Cain
Best known for his role as Clark Kent/Superman in Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman

It's your first appearance in Belgium. Is it everything you had hoped it to be?

I didn't really know what to expect coming here. But I have to say that all the people I've met have been extremely nice and I'm having a fantastic time *smiles*.

What else are you looking forward to visiting during your stay, aside from the convention?

I haven't actually had time to really sightsee. I did a little shopping yesterday. I can say that the people here are all extremely nice *smiles*. To be honest, I really prefer the country and seaside to big cities, so I hope to be able to see those parts of Belgium at some point. Aside from that I look forward to trying out some of the local foods *smiles*.

Find Dean Cain online:

Twitter: twitter.com/realdeancain

IMDB: www.imdb.com/name/nm0001002

**COMIC
CON**
Brussels

2 - 3

MARCH 2019

**COMIC CON
BRUSSELS**

TOUR & TAXIS BRUSSEL/BRUXELLES
GET YOUR GEEK ON!

WWW.COMICCONBRUSSELS.COM

Event: OVO
What: Cirque du Soleil spectacle
When: March 8 - 11 2018, 7 shows in total
Where: Lotto Arena, Antwerp, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
starting at €60
Website: cirquedusoleil.com/ovo

Everyone knows *Cirque du Soleil*, their beautiful and colourful circus inspired shows are loved and anticipated all over the globe. It came to no surprise that the seven showings of OVO at the Lotto Arena were completely sold out.

Whilst OVO is a venue show, which doesn't take place in the Cirque du Soleil's custom circus tent, this did not diminish the ambiance or performance at all. Quite on the contrary, the set up allowed for some really fun crowd interaction, which was both hilarious and a lovely touch.

The story of OVO is simple. An insect colony led by *Master Flipo*, a bug of undefined species, probably some kind of beetle, who looks like a cross between a circus ringleader and *The Joker*, is happily going about it's ways. When the *Foreigner* arrives, carrying a giant egg. Of course, this fly, literally, new arrival stirs things up, especially when his faceted eyes catch a glimpse of the Ladybug.

It is a love story as much as a showing of amazing feats of acrobatics, dance, music and visual artistry at it's best.

In true circus tradition there are funny moments, with Master Flipo and the Foreigner serving as the clowns. Pantomime and sound effects are combined in sketches reminiscent of silent movies. And the story featuring the three main insects interweaves the acts of mind blowing feats by the rest of the cast.

Cirque du Soleil is known for it's costumes as well as it's feats of acrobatics and stunts and OVO is no different. The show is a beautiful mix of ground performances mixing acrobatics, juggling and dance with the comedy interludes with awe inspiring aerial acrobatics. Ranging from *aerial silk* and the duo strap flying act representing butterflies to more traditional acrobatics of the *Russian cradle's* scarab characters and the black spider's *slackwire* gravity defying skills. Even the arachnophobes will momentarily forget their fear at the sight of this colony's eight legged creepy crawlies. And of course, the crickets do what they do best: bouncing in gravity defying stunts on the trampoline matt and walls.

OVO may be one of Cirque du Soleil's smaller shows, but by no means is it less magnificent than the huge tent performances. They made beautiful use of the custom stage, with rising parts and trapdoors, as well as the light and projection screen all simulating an insect colony in a fun and ingenious way. The strength of this performance wasn't just the costumes and gravity defying feats of the artists, but also the mix with humor, making the crowd roar with laughter one moment, and sit there staring at the performances with baited breath the next.

Cirque du Soleil once again proves that they are undisputed when it comes to creating mind blowing all ages shows combining the best of comedy, stunt work, circus acts and theatre. The international cast and crew of this traveling marvel has most definitely proven that fact once again.





Event: Photo Days
What: Convention for photographers
When: March 9 - 11 2018
Where: Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
 Ranging from €7 to €10
Website: www.photodays.be

Photography is a big deal in the Japanese culture and pop culture communities. Whether or not you just like to take snapshots with your phone, are a more serious hobby photographer, an analog enthusiast or a (semi) pro, taking photos is a thing people do. Either to document meets, conventions, concerts, or all sorts of happenings to randomness in daily life.

Queue Photodays, which markets itself as the photography convention for Belgium, for professionals and hobbyists alike. It's definitely worth your while if you're a pro-photographer, but is it also worth your while if you're not? We visited on Saturday, so our review will cover that.

If you are properly passionate about photography, you will absolutely love this convention. All the big brands are there, and you can try out lenses, cameras, studio installations and what have you to your heart's extend. There are over a handful of stands where they have set up a pro studio and you can photograph a model. Especially if you don't have the means or opportunity to do studio shoots, this is a unique opportunity. If you just want to see if studio photography is something for you, again, this is the place to be.

There were also a lot of workshops, where you could learn a lot of practical and essential skills. Not just how to use studio lighting, or equipment, ranging from cameras to lenses to all sorts of camera accessories. But also etiquette in dealing with models, in both a studio setting and outside of it. As well as modeling tips, which is great even if you just want to figure out how to get nice outfit shots or photos of your cosplay and nothing else.

Aside from this, there were also some stands with photo booths, *blindr* and *photo-me* (who also have really nice commercial photo booths you can find in some cities throughout Europe), a convention fare by now. Here you could take super fun photos and have them printed on the spot at no cost. Let's be fair, such things are always fun. We for one find them very hard to resist.

Whilst there were plenty of amazing stands, and a lot of companies had done their utmost to bring something extra to the event, the two that stood above the rest head and shoulders were undoubtedly *Fujifilm* and *Canon*.

The *Fujifilm Belgium* stand was undoubtedly the most beautiful one, with set-ups all around it's walls for people to take outfit shots, snap shots and just all round fun photos. The inside mainly focused on printing and of course, instax.

They had every model currently on sale available for (potential) customer scrutiny and were heavily focusing on promotion of their latest model: the instax square SQ10. You could have a souvenir photo taken with that camera at a special instax wall, which was tons of fun. So when it comes to being pleasing to the eye, Fujifilm won, hands down.

But the real winner when it comes to convention presence was *Canon Belgium*, who had really invested into offering an experience rather on top of a visit to the convention itself.

Not only did they have a general display with all their currently available upscale cameras and lenses, which you were allowed to test. Even lens tests on your own camera were allowed. But they had also hired circus performance group *Iris Project* as models. So photographers could not only try out a different lens on their camera, they actually had someone to photograph. That was a very nice touch.

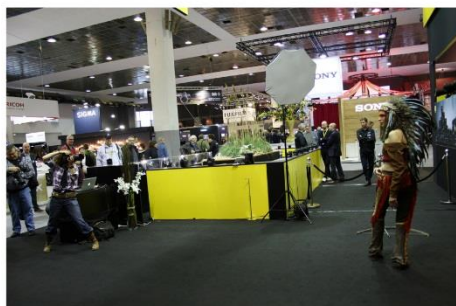
Aside from that they had two smaller studio set-ups attached to the back of the main stand. Here you could follow some really good workshops, with proper one on one guidance from the lecturers. So people that participated really took something from it. Everyone was allowed to come in and photograph the model in the studio settings, but if you shot on Canon, you could take home a large format print and see their pro printing studio in action.

Another fun thing at the Canon stand was their display with the Canon SELPHY printers, so you could take home a print from any photo on your camera.

All in all, if you are just a casual photographer, or shoot primarily analog of with your mobile phone, you probably wouldn't enjoy this much. Not unless you go specifically for the photo booths and special walls to take photos at. If you are passionate about photography, however, and want to try out new equipment or studio settings, or simply participate in workshops to expand your knowledge, it is worth your while.

So basically, whether or not you will enjoy this convention, which is a yearly thing at Brussels Expo, is up to how passionate you are about photography. But if you are, it's definitely a good way to spend a day. Buy your tickets well on time though, because it'll save you a couple of euro's that way.

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.





Event: Made in Asia
What: Asiamania convention (in theory at least)
When: March 16-18 2018
Where: Brussels Expo, Laeken (Brussels), Belgium
Ticket price: €10-15, depending on the formula
Website: www.madeinasia.be

Made in Asia is a veteran Asiamania convention in Brussels, celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. Adjoined to it for the third time in a row was YouPlay!, a gaming convention (also known as Made in Asia's DLC, as jokingly mentioned on the Made in Asia website). Note that I visited these events on Sunday, and therefore cannot judge the situation as it was on Friday and Saturday. But from what I gather Friday it was nearly empty, Saturday it was Swamped.

During the past ten years, Made in Asia has received very mixed reviews. The event has seen its ups and downs: some years were amazing, others were dreadful, and several were downright dangerous due to a lack of safety procedures. I was cautiously optimistic about this year's edition. The past two years had been steadily improving on the problems that have plagued this convention during the past editions. I had hoped they would continue down that road. Sadly enough, my hopes were in vain.

One major issue which always returns in Made in Asia reviews, is overcrowding. Last year, things were pretty okay. This year, the **Crowd so large it warrants a Capital "C"** hath returned to grace us with its suffocating presence once more.

Much to my regret, I have to repeat the warning I once gave in a review a few years back. Do not visit this convention if you have specific health problems that require you to be able to leave quickly, or for which you might need emergency medical aid. Stay away if you have mobility issues or are a wheelchair user.

This convention is NOT disability-friendly.

And please, do not bring small children that can easily get lost or be hurt in a crowd.

This convention is NOT family-friendly, either.

Also, be wary of people using "free hug" signs as an excuse to physically harass other visitors. Be on your guard for amateur photographers who don't understand the fact that their fellow visitors must first consent to being photographed before they can (legally and morally!) shoot their portraits. Both of these types seem

to be multiplying. Apart from a few small Cosplay is not Consent notes, nothing is being done about them.

The vendor hall was a disappointment this year. Made in Asia is infamous for its bootleg merchandise and rampant theft. While I cannot judge the theft part as a visitor, there was **bootleg aplenty**. Certain shops that had been around for years, had suddenly disappeared (among which several anime and manga vendors, which is sort of ironic for a convention with such a big focus on Japanese popular culture). There were less indie artists present than usual. While there were several shops selling lace monsters, no real J-Fashion was to be found.

There were **a few positive things** at Made in Asia this year. The dedication to the *Dragon Ball* theme (a franchise of which several animation veterans had made their way to Belgium to meet their fans) was fun, and the *Toriyama* style costume designs the employees manning those Dragon Ball stands wore, were pretty neat. I was looking forward to seeing this year's Dragon Ball exhibition. However, I did not manage to enter that particular area due to the Crowd lurking inside.

Japanese music fans could enjoy concerts by artists such as *Mikaru* (of *G.L.A.M.S* fame), *TsuShiMaMiRe*, and *She, in the haze*. The many photo booths and anime-themed backdrops were a fun addition. If you are a fluent French speaker, you might have liked meeting your favourite YouTubers, and taking part in the many activities that were French-only (as per usual, Made in Asia forgot Brussels is a multilingual city). And to be fair, the organisers did put an effort into hosting the preliminaries for the *World Cosplay Summit 2018*, which were held for a second time at Made in Asia, in different languages.

A big improvement Made in Asia made during the past few years, was the addition of a food court. Luckily, this addition has not been binned! Just like last year, a hall was dedicated to buying food. Aside of snacks, it offered a place to take a seat and rest your weary feet. It was an unfortunate choice to host it in the same hall the concert stage was in (which had a separate hall last year), and the lines for the food stands were ginormous, but at least it was still there.

I will be frank: I'm **disappointed Made in Asia 2018 made for such a sloppy 10th anniversary edition.**

It could have been a great event if the organisation had followed up on the improvements that had been made during the past two years. This could have been a really memorable anniversary. However, it was not. I can only hope next year will be better, as competition is rising in Belgium's small yet expanding convention landscape.

Review by Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert. and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of **MADE IN ASIA**

March 16-18 2018, Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert



Photographic impressions of the **WORLD COSPLAY SUMMIT**

Made in Asia; Sunday, March 18 2018; Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



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Kazuo Umezu
"Watashi wa Shingo"
"Je suis Shingo"

Satoru, an elementary schoolboy, experiments with *Monroe*, an industrial robot that has replaced all of his father's co-workers at a machine part factory. While on a school trip, he meets *Marine*, a diplomat's daughter. They fall in love, and spend their time together programming *Monroe*, hoping it will help them find a way to be together forever despite their parents' objections. However, the young couple is tragically separated after an almost deadly incident involving *Monroe*'s ill-computed advice. *Monroe*, now taking on the name of *Shingo*, slowly gains consciousness after the accident. It believes itself to be a human child, and sets out on a journey to find the two children that gave it life, considering them its parents.

As with all of Umezu's titles, this story is not for the faint of heart. While the narrative sometimes takes questionable turns, it asks fascinating questions on what it means to be conscious, and on how much childhood love can influence one's later life. Umezu's art style takes some getting used to if you have never picked up one of his manga. However, *Watashi wa Shingo*'s graphic style makes it well worth it. Umezu skilfully blends hand-drawn pixel art and vector graphics into his usual style to show the world as seen through *Shingo*'s robotic eyes. *Watashi wa Shingo* is considered a classic. If you're interested in the history of science-fiction manga, this is definitely a title to pick up. For the first time since its original run in *Shogakukan's Big Comic Spirits* (1982-1986), *Watashi wa Shingo* has been licensed outside of Japan. French publishing company *Le Lézard Noir* has picked up the title, and is doing a marvellous job translating it. So far, two volumes have been released. The third one is scheduled to come out in March 2018. Thanks to this French edition, *Watashi wa Shingo* has been selected to compete at the prestigious *Comic Festival of Angoulême 2018*. This manga was also turned into a musical back in 2016. It was directed and choreographed by *Philippe Decouflé*, and starred *Mitsuki Takahata* and *Mugi Kadowaki*.



Kazuto Tatsuta
"Ichi-Efu"
"1F"

On 11 March 2011, disaster hit Japan: an earthquake caused a massive tsunami to hit the *Fukushima* prefecture, killing over 15.000 people, and leaving many others injured, missing, or homeless. Due to this incident, the *Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant* suffered extensive damage, causing three nuclear meltdowns and the release of radioactive material in the area. This accident gathered a lot of international media attention, which also led to the spread of misinformation and urban legends. To counter these wildly believed inaccuracies, mangaka *Kazuto Tatsuta* put his personal experiences as a clean-up worker at the site of reactor *1F* down on paper. *Ichi-Efu* is a unique title. It shows daily life during the clean-up of *Fukushima*'s disaster area, and gives the reader an idea of the circumstances in which these brave men toil. It

does not seek to judge, but merely gives us a documentary look at the day-to-day happenings of the site. Technical aspects of the job, housing, safety procedures, payment, leisure time, and many other topics are all handled in detail. *Tatsuta*'s art style leaves something to be desired. While the backgrounds and technical details are very well done, the actual characters are a little bland. If you pick up this manga expecting a grand adventure, you are up for disappointment. However, if you're looking for a unique, first-person view on the consequences of the *Fukushima* disaster and the daily happenings at the clean-up site, then look no further and give this title a try.

Ichi-Efu was originally published by *Kodansha* and has been translated into English (*Kodansha*), French (*Kana*), German (*Carlsen Verlag*), Italian (*Star Comics*), and Spanish (*Norma Editorial*).



Kei Ohkubo
"Arte"

Arte, a young aristocratic woman in 16th century Florence (Italy), dreams of becoming a painter and making a living off her art, therefore gaining an independent life for herself. She's working hard to find an apprenticeship in one of the many ateliers of her hometown, but the odds are set against her. Her parents' disapprove of her unfeminine life goals, no professional artist worth his skin would ever employ a woman, and everyone assumes *Arte*'s choices are nothing more than aristocratic whims. Despite her slim chances, our stubborn protagonist perseveres. She manages to apprentice with *Leo*, an eccentric, scruffy painter. Slowly, she builds a name for herself, proving once and for all that gender and societal expectations do not define the paths one walks in life.

Arte's story offers a unique view on the lives of often forgotten figures in history. Through *Arte*'s eyes, we meet women of all layers of society. Wives, widows, courtesans, wet-nurses, maids, and daughters of whom parents had hoped would be sons, populate the pages of this manga. While I cannot vouch for the full historical accuracy of how life in 16th century Florence is portrayed, these character-driven plotlines hold a lot of truth. Besides the story, another asset this manga offers is its art style. Especially the backgrounds and costumes deserve mention. If you've ever visited Italian towns such as *Florence* or *Venice*, you might recognise some notable places from your travels. If you're interested in late Italian renaissance art, and enjoy reading historical slice-of-life stories from a female perspective set in a time when the male view was absolute, *Arte* is worth picking up.

Arte is an ongoing title. It's published in Japan by *Tokuma Shoten*, and is simultaneously being translated into French by *Komikku Éditions*.



MAKOTO

Sincérité - Sincerity

誠



ヘルカネン

New book of Helcanen to be released in April 2017

A piece of Japan, inspired by the Samurai stories during the Edo era & the Shinsengumi.
Illustrations & kanji created with traditional tools.

2017 © Helcanen.be



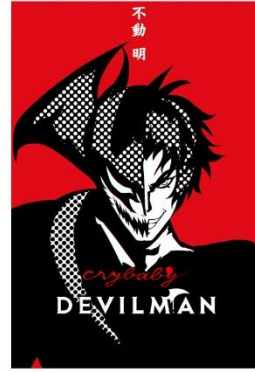
Castlevania
Season 1

Even if you have never played the *Castlevania* video games, you can and most likely will enjoy this anime. It's a decent storyline, with excellent animation and entertaining characters. An excellent mix between the dark ages and supernatural. Not having played the game, I can't say whether or not this is true to the original *Castlevania* setting, but even if it isn't, *Castlevania* the anime is a strong stand alone, worth the watch if you are into supernatural stories featuring demons, vampires and mages. This anime is the absolute proof that great animation of this kind does not have to originate from Japan. Netflix has really done a splendid job hiring cult author *Warren Ellis* for the storyline, to work with their *Powerhouse Animation Studios*. The only thing that can be held against this is that there's just the one season with only 4 episodes, with the 8 episode season two still a while off.



Cyborg 00 vs Devilman

This crossover anime story is more true to the original storyline of *Cyborg 009* than it is to the *Devilman* one, which is frankly a good thing. In my opinion at least because I feel like *Devilman* is a pretty depressing story. That said, the animation in this is excellent, and undoubtedly the strongest point as the story itself is a bit so-so. Whilst they tried to stay true to core stories of both different anime settings, it just didn't mesh as well as they had hoped. Especially the lack of essential back story, if you are unfamiliar with either could be a serious problem because it leaves some pretty big holes in the story for you in that case. Regardless, it's a good attempt, and there are much worse things to watch. So if you are a fan of either *Cyborg 009* or *Devilman*, you'll probably find this something worth watching.



Devilman Crybaby

My only prior experience with *Devilman* before watching this was *Cyborg 009 vs Devilman*. I didn't feel that was the best anime I've ever seen, but it was far from the worst. So I decided to give this a go. And how I regret it. When one of the first episodes started to look more like that infamous hentai classic *Legend of the Overfiend*, I should have known to cut my losses. But I stuck with it because some of the episodes are actually ok. Towards the end however, things got progressively more and more utterly depressing, and I wish I could just get the time back I wasted on this. Like other Netflix shows, this was originally a Japanese language release, and whilst most of it has been translated into English dub, a lot of the texts remain in Japanese only. Which is a problem if Netflix hasn't released the original Japanese version in your territory and you thus have to watch it in a dubbed version. That aside, the drawing style is a little different, and it's the kind of style you'll either like or dislike, so if you expect the typical anime animation and only dig that, well that's just another reason to give this a miss really. If you like the original *Devilman* story, you might like this, as this is essentially a remake, but chances are you're better sticking to what you know.



Killer B, the Beginning - Season 1

Another Netflix original, which just like *Devilman Crybaby*, is not released in the original Japanese in most territories. That aside, even in English this is an amazing work. Undoubtedly the best anime release I have seen in a long time. This successfully combines a detective crime story with a supernatural element not unlike what we are known from anime like *Trinity Blood*. But yet it is much different as the setting is completely different. Even though it is set in the fictional kingdom of *Cremona*, the procedural part of the story is on par with the best live action crime series currently available on tv. The supernatural element doesn't detract from the story at all, rather it beautiful flows into it, making for an intriguing storyline that will keep you hooked from the very first episode to the last. The drawing style is beautiful, the pace excellent and the characters, even the supernatural ones, are believable and fit the anime perfectly. If all anime were of this quality, there'd be even more people into it. Roll on season 2!



Full Metal Alchemist

Full disclosure. I have read neither the manga, nor watched the *Fullmetal* anime adaptations. So I went into this *Netflix* original with no more information about this than what the channel made available to me. I figured I'd give it a go because I noticed the dieselpunk elements in the trailer. And boy, what a waste of my time this was!

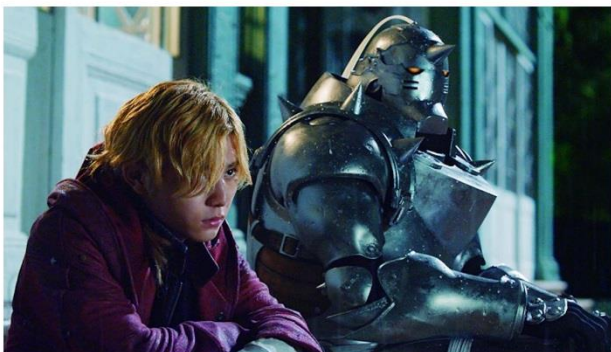
If you want an amazing anime/manga adaptation that's actually worth your time, go for the *Kenshin* movies and give this a wide birth.

For starters, if you are not previously familiar with the setting, you will not be able to get the complete picture because don't expect them to provide proper background information. It also doesn't help that they tried to stuff the entire anime into one movie. If you insist on watching this, at least read the wikipedia page, sure there'll be spoilers but at least you'll know what you're getting into (the only thing that gets away with this kind of negligence is *Trinity Blood's* anime adaptation). Whilst some of the actors are doing a bang up job, several of the lead characters are so badly portrayed it often feels like you are watching a bad soap series. Especially the portrayal of *Ed* leaves a lot to be desired.

Whilst *Ed's* wig is definitely more suited to a low budget cosplay, the costumes, especially the military uniforms, are pretty stellar.

Whilst the digital effects leave a lot to be desired, even more so than some of the actor's performance, the practical effects and *Al's* suit are beautifully done. In general, purely cinematographically speaking, this is pretty visually pleasing, it's just that some of the effects and especially the storyline just aren't there, making this not worth your time. Especially if you're a fan of the manga or anime, you'll probably just cringe for most of it.

There are plenty of excellent releases out there, Japanese and otherwise, and I would strongly advise you go watch one of those instead of wasting your time on this.



Big Hero 6

Big Hero 6 may not be a new release, but as *Disney* has recently started airing the animated series, and we hadn't spoken about this before, now as good a time as any! *Big Hero 6* may seem like the umptieth *Disney* movie, especially the umptieth digitally animated one. Considering it's by the team of *Frozen*, people may expect something along those lines. Nothing is less true as *Big Hero 6* is one of the best things released by the *Disney Studios* since well, quite a while.

This *Marvel* and *Disney* collaboration is proof that both companies should work together more often, because this feature film is not only a magnificent feat when it comes to animation, but also has the same kind of imaginative storytelling and feel of adventure that *Marvel* movies have become famous for in the last decade.

Based on an old, rather obscure *Marvel* title of the same name, *Disney* reinvents both story and characters in the fictional, high-tech and futuristic world of *San Fransokyo* where traditional Japanese influences are crossed with the best of futurepunk and futuretech. Traditional zeppelins cloud the skies alongside vehicles that have only been dreamt up in sci-fi settings. Japanese battlesuits, monsters and robots are go hand in hand with Tokyo style streets, traditional *San Francisco* trams whilst Japanese and Western architecture stand next to each other. Some of the background scenes are done so realistic that for a second you think you're watching an actual live action movie rather than a digitally animated one. The use of colour is splendid, and the detailing on backgrounds as well as characters is amazing.

A lot of criticism has been made on this movie online over the years. One of them being that *Disney* is stuck on the same character design over and over. Let me tell you something: once you are watching the movie you will see that this critique is entirely unjustified. Whilst the character *Honey Lemon* may look slightly like *Rapunzel* in some of the portrait stype promo images, in the movie she is very much an original character. Also: most of the male and female characters have distinctively different body types, which is something that can only be encouraged. The characters are well developed for their part in the movie, and are as loveable as the casts of many other *Disney* movies we've come to love over the years. Even though the movie is all about science, robotics and superheroes, it has more than enough features to be interested to those that don't much care about these topics as it is pretty well rounded as a whole and there is much more to the story than a bunch of students going after a villain. The only thing that can be said against it is that it is a mite predictable, but in the end of the day, it's an animated *Disney* movie so some measure of predictability is to be expected.

In short, *Big Hero 6* is a fantastic piece of cinematography for animation fans of all ages.

J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Ish and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



color-code
"if~この声が届くなら~"
single
Genre: Jpop and electropop

Who remembers *color-code* from their 2016 EU tour? Well, we at BCM sure do, and this latest four song release by the electropop trio is one of the best Jpop releases we've come across in a long time. *if* shows not only the growth of the band in the musical style we know them best for, but also that they are quite capable of extending their musical horizon to beautiful, almost haunted, pop songs. They are creating an atmosphere with their new songs that feels like stories you want to delve into over and over again. Once again color-code is proving they are one of the bands to keep an eye on, and frankly we still don't understand why they're not more famous than they are because this pop trio is amazing.

BCM's favourite track: if



Satsuki
"REBOOT"
EP
Genre: rap and heavy metal

Well, first and foremost, REBOOT is a truly apt name for this 8 song EP. Whilst we know *Satsuki* most for being a heavy metal artist, he's completely changed his musical style on this one and switched to something much more commercial with his take on the current rap style like we know from anime like *Devilman Cry Baby*. Whether you'll like this at all entirely depends on whether or not you like hip hop and rap. If you do, absolutely go for this. For the fans of old school Satsuki, there's the REBOOT version of *Zero*, which is in the style we best know him for. This makes REBOOT a varied release, which is ace. It's great to hear that Satsuki dares to take risks, and that he's not afraid to change his style and experiment. Whether or not you'll like it all depends on personal musical genre preferences really, because composition wise, this is a solid EP.

BCM's favourite track: Zero, REBOOT version



FATAL FE & Season of Ghosts
"Surreal"
Free download single
Genre: alternative rock/metal

Season of Ghosts returns, for now, with a remix song collab with *FATAL FE*. Full of strong riffs, pounding beats and topped off with *Sophia Sama's* haunting vocals. Go to www.seasonofghosts.com, click download and get it for free!



Sumire Uesaka
"POP TEAM EPIC"
EP
Genre: electropop/Jpop

It's not entirely surprising that *POP TEAM EPIC* went viral, because this single is pretty darn catchy. Sumire Uesaka's work as a voice actress is an influence that does seep through in her music, especially on the track ミッドナイト□お嬢様. It's in theory a 6 track EP, but in reality it's more a 3 track single as the last three are an instrumental repeat of the first 3 songs. Nevertheless, this is a fun listen, especially if you're into electronic style Jpop.

BCM's favourite track: ミッドナイト□お嬢様 (instrumental version)



LUNA SEA
"Luv"
Full album
Genre: Jrock

LUV is undoubtedly the kind of CD that the fans of *LUNA SEA* will love. It's a good representation of the band's sound, and it proves once again that they are a well-oiled machine when it comes to song writing and composition. After nearly three decades as a band, they have a well-developed signature sound which they are sticking to. As a result *LUV* is the kind of album that will likely be enjoyed with old and new fans of that sound alike.

BCM's favourite track: Hold You Down



Zombie Sam
"Assasins Creed – Unity"
Free download single
Genre: gaming soundtrack

Zombie Sam, best known as lead guitarist of *Seasons of Ghosts*, is not only an amazing guitarist, he is also a virtuoso composer. A skill he is happy to share with his fans for free, on his regular takes on movie and gaming music. Go to www.zombiesam.com, click on "free songs" and enjoy! Check out his other free tracks as well whilst you're at it, because there's a lot of good stuff on there!

Photographic impressions of **MIKARU** solo, live at Made in Asia

Friday, March 16 2018; Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of **SHE, IN THE HAZE**; live at Made in Asia

Friday, March 16 2018; Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

Apologies that these are not the quality you have come to expect from our concert photos.
We had to shoot pictures like these in compliance with the band's management as the band has a set style.



Photographic impressions of **TSUSHIMAMIRE**, live at Made in Asia

Friday, March 16 2018; Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of **MIKARU** solo, live at Made in Asia

Saturday, March 17 2018; Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

Photography by Helcanen.



Photographic impressions of **MIKARU** solo, live at Made in Asia

Sunday, March 18 2018; Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of **SHE, IN THE HAZE**; live at Made in Asia

Sunday, March 18 2018; Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

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Photographic impressions of **TSUSHIMAMIRE**, live at Made in Asia

Sunday, March 18 2018; Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

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MIKARU

conquering
the stage
SOLO

Mikaru was back in Europe, on a solo run this time (#MikaruSoloRun).

So we sat down together at *Made in Asia* to find out about life on tour without G.L.A.M.S and his plans for the rest of 2018.

You've toured Europe several times before. What is it you look forward to coming back the most?

People's love and smiles *smiles*. The fans shouting, screaming, dancing. I want to see that passion again. I really look forward to that *smiles*. Because when I'm on stage, things like the country someone's from, language, religion, none of that stuff matters. Only the music matters. Being on stage is a paradise *smiles*.

You've performed so many lives now. What's the craziest thing that has ever happened during a concert?

At one point in Paris, my staff had created this boat. Kind of like a rowboat. And I sat in it and pretended to row, whilst the crowd was passing on the boat. So I was literally rowing on waves of people. Kind of like crowdsurfing. That was amazing *smiles*.

The tour is covering quite a few countries. What do you want to do for sure in each of them, aside from meeting fans and performing.

You know, I hardly ever have spare time, so at this point I've stopped making plans like that. Sometimes I even forget which country I'm in, with all the driving going on *laughs*. But if I do have time, my interests haven't changed. I will still go visit historical sights. I love old European history. Castles, churches, things like Versailles. Which I finally got to visit by the way *smiles*. Eventually I will see all of them, it may just take a while at this rate *smiles*.

You did manage some sightseeing in France earlier this tour. What was the most amazing thing you've seen?

Yes! Finally, after 11 years I have finally managed to go to Versailles! I would have to say the King's bed there! It's so small! One day I will get that bed, but supersized so there's actually room for me to sleep in it *laughs*. But seriously, it was amazing to see how queen Marie-Antoinette lived. I love Marie-Antoinette, the movie by Sophia Ford Coppola and visiting Versailles was really like being in the movie.

You've been working with REALive, under different names and in different capacities for over 10 years. What was the most positive experience you've had from working with them in all this time?

Mikaru: It's a special and super good team. It's like family. Us working together has been going on now for 11 years, and it's great.

Aurélien, tour manager: That's what you come us with? I'm colouring in a huge sign for you by hand and that's what you say *laughs*?!

Mikaru: *Still laughing*. I'm just happy to be part of this. Especially because it feels like it will go on forever *smiles*.

If you were able to spend a day with your fans. What would you do?

We'd go drinking and dancing all night long. Sing karaoke. And in the morning we can all be hungover together. During summer in a forest *grins*.

You're a bit of a chameleon, changing your look often. What inspired you most for your current look?

I'm always changing things in my mind. I was ready for a total change of look for my solo tour, so I started by changing things I had had for a long time. I had long hair for a long time, so I cut it myself into the hairdo I have now. I was blonde for a long time, so I dyed it back to my natural hair colour. I just make the changes I feel like at the moment, there's no rhyme or reason behind it. But I am always on the lookout for something new for me.

What's the difference in your song writing process when you write for G.L.A.M.S versus writing for yourself solo?

This actually goes for everything, not just writing. With the band, everything is always bigger. There's more people involved too of course, it really makes my heart race. And that pumps me up to go bigger. For myself, I am much more introvert. I can focus on just my vocals and nothing else. People just see me. It's different but good! But I love both really *smiles*.

You're always super busy, what is your next big project?

I am! I have to say that I always focus on one big project at the time. Be it making jewellery, painting or music. But after this tour I'll be 100% focussed on a new EP with G.L.A.M.S. I'm creating 5 new, totally different songs and a new music video. So those are plans until summer I would say.

Does that mean we'll see you back soon with the band?

Yes, I should be back later this year with the guys.

Nowadays, the internet plays a big part in the music industry. How do you feel it influences you personally?

Outside of my professional life I actually never use the internet. It's a must have tool for professional artists I feel. And that's how I treat it *smiles*. The thing is, buying music online is easy and cheap, and often even free. So I feel that using the internet is essential so people see what I'm doing and actually buy what I release. It really does make me super happy when I sell what I create *smiles*.

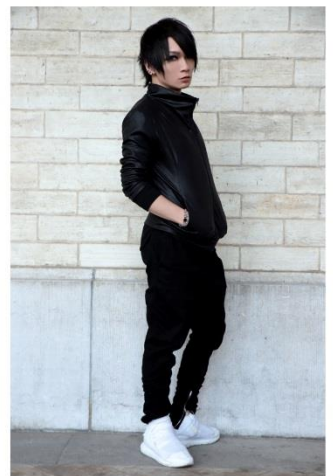
Just some fun questions to close the interview.

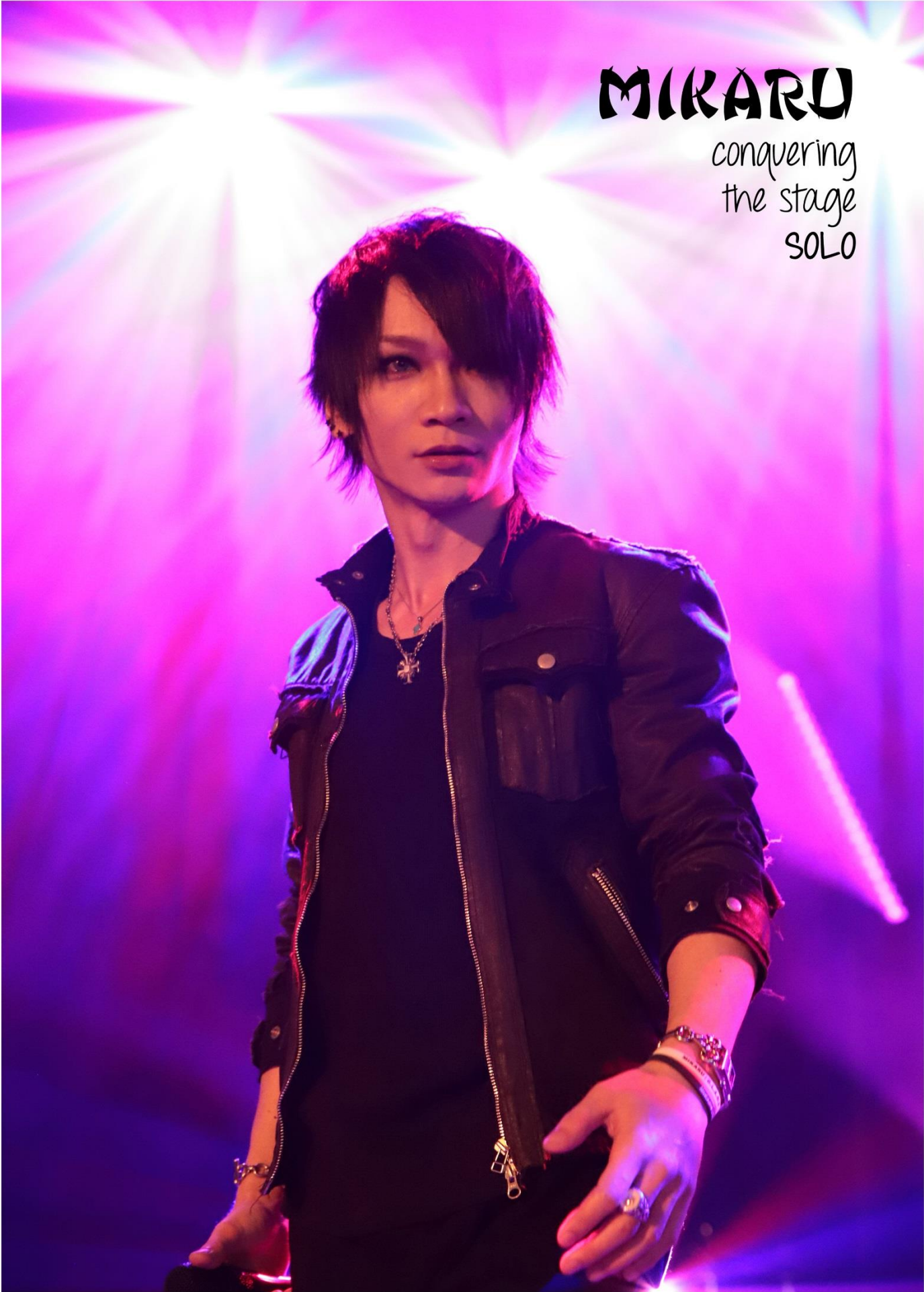
You often take photos of your pet rabbits. Which one of them is the best bunny model?

Smiles Oh my god, that is such a hard question! *Thinks for a moment* maybe the brown one: Lily. She was the first rabbit I got and she's a *Netherland Dwarf*. She has a very strong heart, like a queen *smiles*. She's very selfish, but when I gently pet her forehead she's so happy *smiles*. She'll close her eyes and fall asleep. Lala, the black one, she's always licking my face. She'll give me non-stop kisses *smiles*. And then there's the white one, Mimi. I don't even get what she's thinking. She's like Syu of G.L.A.M.S *laughs*, just the same. No one gets his train of thought either *laughs*.

If your rabbits were the Easter bunny, what would they bring you for Easter?

Oh I know what would happen! I know exactly! They would get me a big bag of dried fruit, which is their favourite, and then they would demand I feed it to them so they can eat it themselves *laughs*.





MIKARU

conquering
the stage
SOLO

Mikaru



Come...

Come to
My world...

Win a cheki signed by Mikaru!

When we interviewed and photographed Mikaru of G.L.A.M.S at his solo appearance at Made in Asia, Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium, he was kind enough to sign one cheki to give away to a lucky fan.

So dear readers, that is what one of you can win: a cheki signed by the awesome Mikaru.

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular (signed) cheki. You can write something, draw something, make a Photoshop collage: anything goes as long as you can send it by email and it is safe for work! So no porn, no smutty fanfic, keep it decent and it's a valid entry ;).

Submissions can be emailed to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

The last date for submissions is June 21st, so you still have plenty of time to come up with something!

The winner will be personally notified after the deadline* and asked for their home address so we can mail** out their cheki. Don't worry, your address stays on file with BCM, but will NOT be given to third parties, so your privacy is definitely assured!

* Please take into account that judging takes a bit of time, especially during final editing period of the next edition, so please be patient for the results as it can take a few days for them to be released. We will email everyone that submitted to let them know whether or not they won.

** We rely on regular, unsigned and thus unregistered mail to send out cheki via B-Post and we are no means responsible should the post screw up. They haven't so far and we've sent cheki all over the globe, but you never know so we like to mention this in advance. They can also take quite a while to deliver, so please be patient. Especially if you live outside of Belgium. Shipping to locations outside of Europe may take anything from a handful of days, to a couple of weeks and even a few months.



SHE, IN THE HAZE

Expectations of Europe



She, in the haze; *Sith* for short, is not your average Japanese rock band.

So of course, we had to find out more about them. We sat down with them on their first day at *Made in Asia*.

It's your first time in Belgium, could you introduce your band in just 5 words?

Yu-ki (vocals and guitar), after short deliberation with the other members: Beauty, melancholy, psycho, dark and angry.

Listening to your music and watching your MV's, it feels like storytelling is as important to you as the song.

Yu-ki: Yes! Exactly!

What kind of stories would you still like to tell in your future songs?

Yu-ki: I would still like to write about abuse. As well as a sad story of a lost lover, stories of loss through death. And portray the feeling of missing.

You once said that you are very influenced by movie music. Which director would you love to write a soundtrack for yourself.

Yu-ki: I would love to work with *David Fincher*. Preferably on a suspense movie.

What's your all-time favourite soundtrack?

Yu-ki: The one of the movie *Perfume*, that's amazing.

The abbreviation of your band name is *Sith*. Are you guys *Star Wars* fans or was it by accident?

All three of them burst out into laughter. Yu-ki: oh no, it's just a total coincidence!

***Sith* was formed in 2010, how do you feel your music has evolved since you first started playing together?**

Yu-ki: Actually, nothing has changed at all. We still sound like the first time we played together *smiles*.

What was the most exciting part preparing for this tour?

Yu-ki: I would actually have to say that the most exciting part was the excitement of finally coming here. So the most exciting was feeling excited *smiles*. Aside from that I am excited to meet many foreign people and perform for them, see how they react to our music. That sort of thing.

This is your first time in Europe, what do you definitely want to do?

Yu-ki: I want to see if the image of Europe I have in my head matches reality. And also eat a waffle and drink some Belgian beer *smiles*.

Tomo (drums): I want to eat chocolate *laughs*.

You run your online presence such as your website and twitter in both Japanese and English. Does this mean that we will see much more of you in Europe over the coming years?

Yu-ki: We definitely want to go outside of Japan. Discover the world. I'm looking forward to going to all these new places and meeting the people that live there. But I definitely want to come back to Belgium at some point.

Nowadays, the internet plays a big part in the music industry. How do you feel it influences your band?

Yu-ki: Youtube, twitter and facebook are not only good to share our music videos with the world and our fans, we feel that they are essential tools. They're good to introduce our music, to pour out so to speak, and keep in touch with the fans and make sure new people discover us. Especially our music videos are very important for *She, in the haze*.

Are you involved in any other kind of art outside of music, and how does it influence your music and vice versa?

Yu-ki: Yes, actually, we make all our own music videos, and I am also a graphic designer and I'm very into storytelling. Everything makes its way to the outside from the inside via music and art. So I would say they influence each other equally.

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography, official promo photo and Bert Van den Wyngaert (opener).
Translations by the crew of *She, in the haze* and Wanda Proft. Thank you so much for your help!



Win a cheki signed by She, in the haze!

When we interviewed and photographed She, in the Haze at the band's appearance at Made in Asia, Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium, keyboard player An was kind enough to sign one cheki to give away to a lucky fan.

So dear readers, that is what one of you can win: a cheki signed by the super sweet An of She, in the haze.

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular (signed) cheki. You can write something, draw something, make a Photoshop collage: anything goes as long as you can send it by email and it is safe for work! So no porn, no smutty fanfic, keep it decent and it's a valid entry ;).

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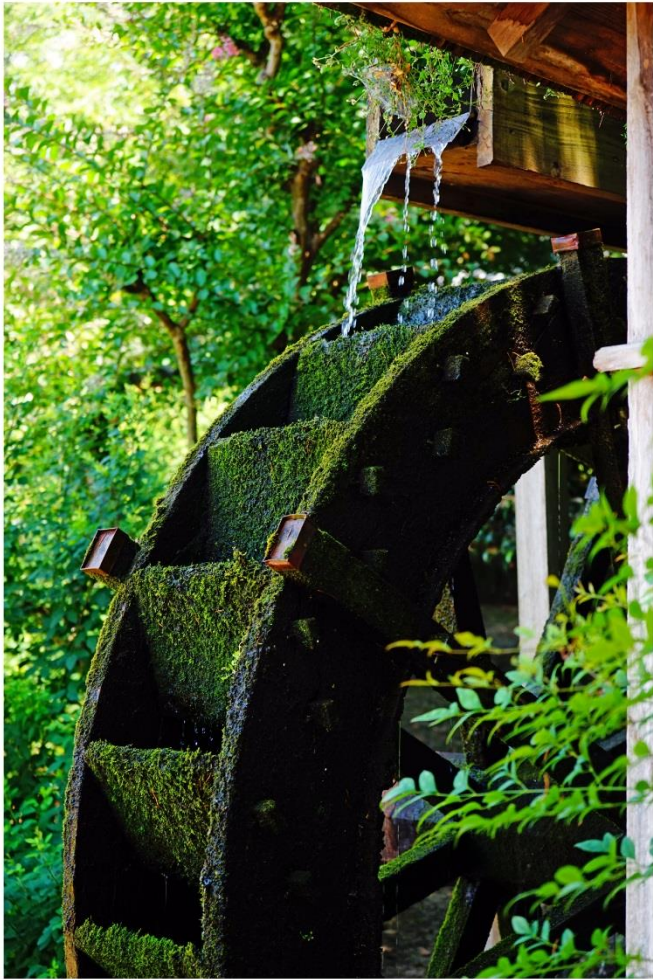
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The Okayama prefecture is famous for the legend of *Momotaro*, the boy born in a peach surrounded by three animals, to defeat a giant oger. It comes to no surprised you see a lot of souvenirs, snacks and amulets with a peach pattern pretty much everywhere.

Kibitsu is a little town, unknown to most tourists in the prefecture. Honestly, I chose this destination randomly while I was on the road. *Kibitsujinja* caught my attention on the map and I quickly checked the internet to see if the local shrine would be interesting. Whilst they made a mention of features such as the long corridor, I couldn't imagine what exactly to expect there. But I decided to visit anyway. Having arrived at Kibitsu station, I couldn't find any coin lockers to store my suitcase and I instantly regretted to not have dropped it at Okayama station. I had no other choice than to bring it along to the shrine with me. As I visited during the summer, it was incredibly hot and humid and I would not recommend walking with luggage under the burning sun. Just imagine my face when I reached the shrine, after having climbed so many stairs! I needed to find a solution for my stuff, quickly! There was a little souvenir shop just in front of the shrine's entrance and after a moment of hesitation I told myself: "Ok, better ask, you never know". I entered the shop which had a little restaurant attached to it and asked about storing my bags. The owner was very kind and said it was no problem, and I could just collect them again after my visit.

So, let's climb the stairs for the most unexpected experience...

Walking around all of it, taking a lot of pictures, continuing to walk through this 400m long corridor. Stopping here and there, even live streaming a video on Facebook, I really took my time to enjoy this peaceful place. I was alone. I would re-

commend visiting this shrine just for the surroundings and atmosphere alone.

Then, a little wooden building caught my attention, especially because it was surrounded by smoke. I approached and saw two people inside. One of them was an older woman. I didn't want to disturb and was ready to continue exploring the surroundings when suddenly the lady called out to me: "*please enter, yes, you can come in*". She invited me to join to have a chat, and fortunately, the Chinese student with her, Jenny, helped me translating to English during the conversation. I was asked where I was from, and when the woman heard Belgium, she said that she knows it because she really likes a Belgian singer, who's name she couldn't remember. So she started to sing "*Ne me quitte pas*". I couldn't believe she liked *Jacques Brel*! We talked for a while then she suddenly jumped up and ran to the fireplace in the room. When she sat down again she said: "*oh, I almost forgot to take care of the fire, it would have been terrible*". While the smoke was filling the room, she explained that this fire has been burning for a hundred years. Four maids in turn keep it alive without interruption, and she is one of them. This is a sacred fire and also the reason why the wood of the building turned to black, as well as the decorations such as the big wooden spoon, a present from *Miyajima* two centuries years ago. The building itself is 400 years old. My curiosity roused, I asked more about the fire. Sadly photos weren't allowed inside, but at least I have this story to share.

In Kibitsu there is a legend. An ogre, or demon, (鬼 - oni) named *Ura* was terrifying the village. He was defeated by the prince *Kibitsuuhiko-no-Mikoto*. *Ura* was beheaded, and it is said that his head was placed under a cauldron in a fireplace. It seems that this is the origin of the legend of *Momotaro*. The shrine was built where the battle had taken place, and the head of the ogre is said to be buried there. She told me that the maids taking care of the fire are a bit like the wives of *Ura*. She explained this in English, so maybe the meaning is a little off. In any case, they are linked to *Ura* because they take care of the holy fire that burns where his head is buried.

There is a ceremony at Kibitsujinja called *Narukama-shinji*, related to this legend. The maid explained that it can sometimes be a bit scary, because during the ceremony while she is waving branches and cooking rice in the cauldron, a strange noise can suddenly emerge from it. When this happens, it is seen as an answer from *Ura*, granting your wish or responding to your prayers. Answering favorably to your request. But the answer also depends on your feelings at that moment and whether they are good or bad. Of course I asked when these ceremonies take place and if by any chance I could witness one. When she asked me if I wanted to try I of course did. Jenny told me that she would help with translating, and asked if she could stay to watch. That is how I tried my hand at my first *Narukama-shinji*.





The maid called in the shrine priest to let him know that he had to get dressed and ready for the ritual. Meanwhile, I filled in a form, writing down my name and country in *katakana*, and then the maid completed all other info for me, writing down a sincere wish of mine. It was too late to do full ritual proceedings, we skipped the part where we have to pray at the top of the shrine, going down step by step, etc, and instead went for the abbreviated version inside the fire building. As a side note, doing the ritual is not free. I paid 3000 yen. You can spend a lot more, though. The more you are willing to pay, the more you increase the power of the praying, and so on.

While we waited for the priest, the maid apologized, hoping that I wouldn't be disappointed if there is no answer from Ura. She said that many people leave without an answer, which she has no control over as it is the Gods' will. We sat in *seiza* position (kneeling under the floor with your legs folded under you), waiting in silence, the atmosphere was strange and serious. The priest arrived, dressed in the traditional turquoise clothing and black headdress. The maid had also gone to change her clothes, and returned wearing pure white ceremonial garb.

The ceremony consisted of the priest talking in Japanese whilst everyone watched the cauldron in the fire place. The maid walked around the fire, shaking brushes around the cauldron and in our direction, one by one. It was impossible for me to understand what was said, as I was unfamiliar with the older version of Japanese used. I could only make out my name during the prayers that were recited. Even Jenny, who was translating, found it to hard to understand. After 10 minutes, when the ceremony was close to ending, and the maid had already added the rice in the cauldron, there was still no sound. I will admit I was feeling a little sad that nothing had happened.

But then, as she removed the bamboo cover from the cauldron and a lot of smoke rose up from it, she shook the rice and something did happen. First I was unsure what it was, but then a strange sound started resonating, almost like a complaint rising up from a cave. Not loud, decreasing and returning louder. It did that a few times and it definitely came from the pot on the fire. This is called the *roaring of Ura*. And there were three *roars* in total. Although we were excited, we stayed silent until the end of the ceremony.

Afterwards, the priest came to have a little chat with us, asking about our impressions about the ceremony and such. The atmosphere was suddenly more friendly. The maid, who had left the room a few moments earlier, came back and gave us some smoked rice, which had been cooked in the cauldron during the ceremony. To fully complete the ritual, I had to eat it. Then she brought two packs, one for me and one for my new friend Jenny, containing five little packs containing the rest of the rice with the instruction that we should eat them when we feel the need or were feeling bad.

The maid also asked my opinion about the ceremony. We all felt the outcome was positive but of course I felt strange about it as well. She said she was happy it had turned out well for me. The sound is impressive, especially when you know the story behind it. In my case it meant Ura was favourable to my wish. It was an amazing experience, hard to explain in words.



By then, it was time to leave so I went back to the shop to grab my bags. As I hadn't had lunch I decided to eat a bowl of udon there and buy a souvenir peach manju. When I was leaving, I noticed the Ura decoration outside of the shop and realised that besides the amazing experience, I learned interesting tales and part of the history of this town.



Was it really a random destination?
Or maybe I was guided by the Japanese Gods?
Who knows...





Coming soon...

Illustration book & oracle cards

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Kitakyushu special



Kasuga shrine







Kokura castle





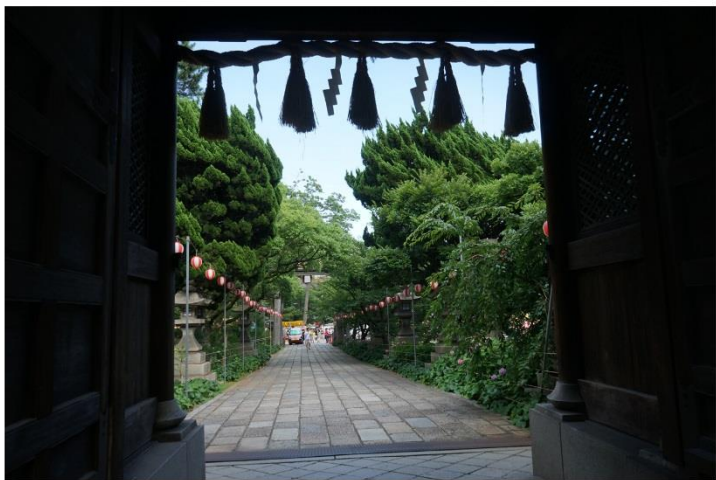




Kokura Yasaka shrine









Kurotsuki city walk



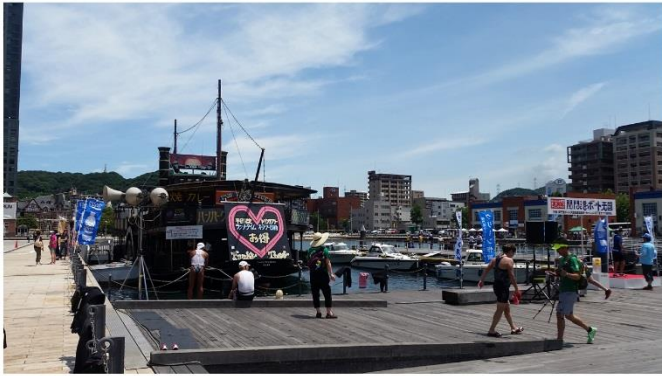


Mekari sânsâ









Mosiko city walk





Okadagyu







*Kannon
bridge*

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EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

ongoing...

Japanorama.

A new vision on art since 1970

Until: May 5

Venue: Centre Pompidou-Metz

City: Metz

Country: France

www.centrepompidou-metz.fr/en

Masked warriors.

Battle Stage of the Samurai

Until: May 27

Venue: Seiboldhuis

City: Leiden

Country: The Netherlands

www.sieboldhuis.org/en

Mesdag & Japan

Until: June 17 2018

Venue: De Mesdag Collectie

City: The Hague

Country: The Netherlands

www.demesdagcollectie.nl/en

Star Wars: Identities

Until: September 2

Venue: Hall 2, Brussels Expo

City: Laeken

Country: Belgium

www.starwarsidentities.be

April

Satsuki REBOOT tour

12: Bobble Café, Lille, France

13: Voodoo Club, Warsaw, Poland

14: Fumiko Expo, Liège, Belgium

15: Fumiko Expo, Liège, Belgium

15: Le Garage, Liège, Belgium

highfeel.jp/events

Mang'Azur

Date: 15 & 16

Venue: Palais Neptune

City: Toulon

Country: France

www.mangazur.fr

MIYAVI

Day 2 – World Tour 2018

19: Paris, France

21: London, UK

24: Berlin, Germany

26: Warsaw, Poland

27: Moscow, Russia

haru (from Universe)

21: Mang'Azur, Toulon, France

22: Mang'Azur, Toulon, France

27: DIY Café, Lille, France

29: Le Garage, Liège, Belgium

highfeel.jp/events

Church of Misery

European tour 2018

27: Sala la Choza, Maspalomas,
Gran Canaria

29: SWR Barroselas Metalfest 21,
Barroselas, Portugal

30: JunkYard, Dortmund, Germany

May

haru (from Universe)

1: Comicon, Napoli, Italy

highfeel.jp/events

Church of Misery

European tour 2018

1: Garage, Saarbrücken, Germany

2: Patronaat, Haarlem, The Netherlands

3: Elfenaar, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

4: Arena Treptow, Berlin, Germany

5: Desertfest, London, UK

6: 4AD, Diksmuide, Belgium

7: Bastard Club, Osnabrück, Germany

8: Z-Bau, Nürnberg, Germany

9: Gaswerk, Winterthur,
Czech Republic

10: Le Rex Clube, Toulouse, France

11: Rocksound, Barcelona, Spain

12: Kristonfest 2018, Madrid, Spain

Japanese Art Show

Japanese Pop & Modern Art

Date: 15-20

Venue: espacio gallery

City: London

Country: UK

www.espaciogallery.com

Japan Con

Asian pop culture festival

Date: 20

Venue: Parkloods Noord

City: Antwerp

Country: Belgium

www.japancon.be

Kyary Pamyu Pamyu

Date: 20

Venue: KOKO

City: London

Country: UK



Japan Tag

Date: 26

Venue: various

City: Düsseldorf

Country: Germany

www.japantag-duesseldorf-nrw.de/en

June

BABYMETAL

World tour 2018

1: Rock am Ring, Nürburg, Germany

2: Rock im Park, Nürnberg,
Germany

4: Music Hall Innsbruck, Innsbruck,
Austria

5: TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht,
The Netherlands

9: Download UK, Derby, UK

AnimeCon

Date: 15 – 17

Venue: World Forum

City: Den Hague

Country: The Netherlands

www.animecon.nl

Comic Con Gent

Date: 30

Venue: ICC

City: Ghent

Country: Belgium

www.comiccongents.com

July

Comic Con Gent

Date: 1

Venue: ICC

City: Ghent

Country: Belgium

www.comiccongents.com

Japan Expo

Date: 5-8

Venue: Parc des Expositions

Paris-Nord Villepinte

City: Villepinte

Country: France

www.japan-expo-paris.com

Hyper Japan

Date: 13-15

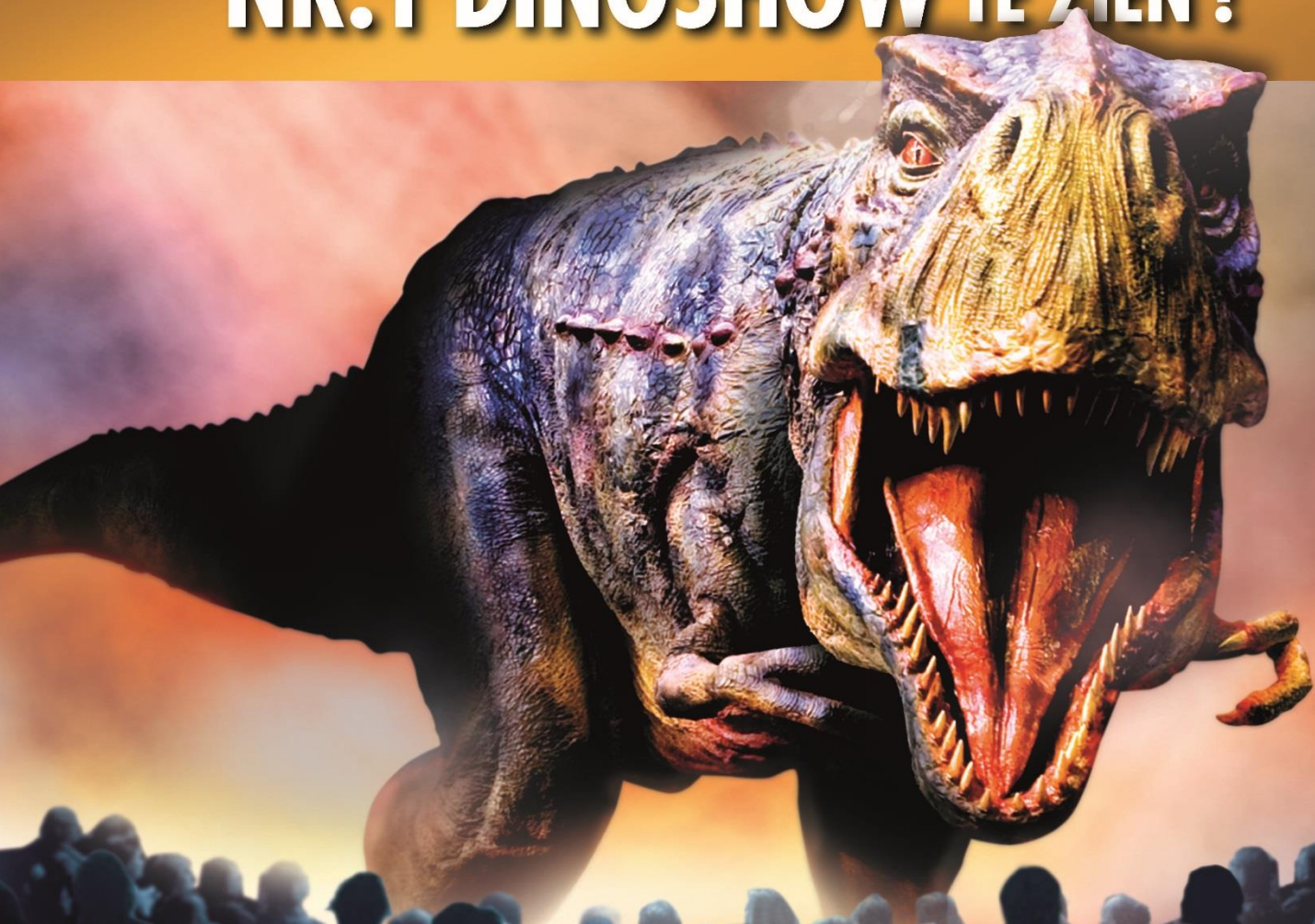
Venue: Olympia

City: London

Country: UK

hyperjapan.co.uk

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 PRESENTS



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SLECHTS 3 SHOWS !

HELLO
SPRING!





Hat, Failsworth. **Glasses**, Theo. **Coat**, UNIQLO x Lemaire. **Blouse**, ASOS. **Dress**, handmade. **Petticoat**, Dear Celine. **Tights**, Insua. **Star Wars sneakers**, Primark. **Bag**, Bakker made with love. **Bag charm**, Disney Store Japan. **Accessories**, ASOS, handmade, Han Cholo x Think Geek, Piesces, Roxy. **Vintage camera**, Agfa Click I (in case).



Hat, model's own. Blouse, C&A. JSK, Camelie Fiolere (Li-Paro). Shoes, Demonia.



Headbow, Accessorize. **Glasses**, Theo. **Top**, H&M. **Minnie's bow brooch**, handmade. **Skirt**, handmade. **Tights**, Insua. **Boots**, Kickers. **Bag**, Zatchels. **Bag charm**, Tokyo DisneySea (TippyBlue).





Glasses, Hans Anders. Choker, AliExpress seller. Robe, thrifted/vintage. Top, Pastel Pollution. Shorts, H&M. Garters, AliExpress seller. Tights, model's own. Over the knee socks, CherryCheezy. Sneakers, Nike. Accessories, Listen Flavor, Claire's, Zombie Unicorn Jewelry.



Hat, thrifted. **Glasses**, Theo. **Top**, H&M. **Skirt**, handmade. **Petticoat**, American Apparel. **Leggings**, Primark x Harry Potter. **Socks**, HEMA. **Boots**, Kickers. **Bag**, Primark x Harry Potter.





Hairband, ASOS made in Kenya. **Glasses**, Theo. **Cardigan**, Primark. **Brooch**, Mad Illustration. **Blouse**, Axes Femme. **Skirt**, handmade. **Petticoat**, Dear Celine. **Tights**, ebay seller. **Boots**, Sacha. **Bag**, Zatchels. **Bag charm**, Disney Store Japan and customised Decathlon. **Accessories**, handmade, Han Cholo, Piesces, Roxy.



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All instant cameras welcome, not just instax, feel free to send in Polaroids as well!



BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, to
hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



COMIC CON BRUSSELS COSPLAY SNAP

February 10 & 11 2018, Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



MADE IN ASIA COSPLAY SNAP

March 16 & 18, Brussels Expo, Laeken, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



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15 - 16

SEPTEMBER 2018

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TsuShiMaMiRe, live at Made in Asia. Brussels Expo, Brussels Belgium. March 2018.

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